Income tax notices

3296. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax Department has issued notices to large number of people including Members of the State Government of Himachal Pradesh seeking details of their income and tax retuns if ever filed by them in Shimla or any other station;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith names of persons to whom such notices have been issued;

(c) whether Government propose to take action in the matter in case where notices are not responded within prescribed time limit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) The Income tax Department, Shimla, has sought certain information from the Members of State Legislature about whether they have applied for PAN and whether they are filing the returns of income.The courtesy letter issued by the Department could not be considered a statutory notice under the Income tax Act, 1961, for filing returns of income.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) As mere courtesy letters have been issued no statutory action is required to be taken against those who have not responded to the Department's communication. However, all such persons will be assisted by the Department to file Form No. 49A so that PAN could be allotted to them.

Fiscal health of the country

3297. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the improved economic growth, the fiscal health of the country is a matter of grave concern; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VEKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The overall growth in real gross